

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 H-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /128 W

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R 150905Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 642

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS UR XH

SUBJ: ROK RELATIONS WITH USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE

1. AT FAREWELL TETE-A-TETE LUNCH GIVEN BY EMBOFF FOR LEE KI CHOO (KOREAN EMBASSY EXTERNAL POLITICAL SECOND SECRETARY) WHO IS LEAVING TOKYO TO ASSUME CHARGE OF NEW SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF MOFA IN SEOUL, HE DESCRIBED HIS CURRENT TASK OF GETTING VISAS FOR ROK DELEGATION TO IPU COUNCIL MEETING IN BUCHAREST, APRIL 14. LEE SAID MOFA HAD INSTRUCTED KOREAN EMBASSY TOKYO TO SEEK VISAS FOR DELEGATION CONSISTING OF SIX GOVT AND OPPOSITION PARLIAMENTARIANS PLUS THREE SECRETARIES AND ACCOMPANYING PARTY OF KOREAN JOURNALISTS. IN ADDITION TO ATTENDING IPU MEETING IN BUCHAREST, DELEGATION WISHES TO VISIT BUDAPEST, SOFIA, WARSAW, AND MOSCOW.

2. LEE SAID THAT HIS APPROACHES IN TOKYO TO RESPECTIVE

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EMBASSIES HAVE ELICITED INTERESTING VARIETY OF

RESPONSES. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE POLITE AND BUSINESSLIKE AND ASKED HIM TO SEND OFFICIAL LETTER SETTING FORTH NECESSARY INFORMATION CONCERNING DELEGATES. THEIR REACTION CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER APPLICATION THOUGH THEY MADE NO COMMITMENT AS TO WHETHER VISAS WOULD OR WOULD NOT BE GRANTED. POLES WERE ALSO FORTHCOMING AND SIMPLY ASKED THAT KOREAN EMBASSY MAKE ROUTINE APPLICATION WITH PASSPORTS. APPROACH BY TELEPHONE TO BULGARIAN EMBASSY MET WITH RESPONSE THAT THEY WOULD CHECK WITH HOME OFFICE. THREE WEEKS LATER LEE RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM BULGARIANS SAYING THAT EMBASSY TOKYO WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE VISAS BUT THAT DELEGATES SHOULD APPLY TO BULGARIAN EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST WHEN THEY ARRIVE THERE. TELEPHONE CALL TO HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WAS MET WITH ABRUPT REFUSAL TO EVEN DISCUSS MATTER.

3. IN CASE OF ROMANIA, LEE SAID THAT IPU SECRETARIAT IN GENEVA HAD TOLD KOREAN REPS THAT ROMANIANS HAD ASSURED IPU THEY WOULD ISSUE VISAS TO ROK DELEGATES. HOWEVER, WHEN LEE CALLED ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO, LATTER HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUCHAREST AND INQUIRY HAS YET TO PRODUCE RESPONSE.

4. LEE SEEMED MILDLY HOPEFUL THAT KOREAN DELEGATION WILL INDEED BE ABLE TO VISIT ONE OR MORE EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN ADDITION TO BUCHAREST. HE SAID THAT KOREAN MOFA HAS ONLY LIMITED INFORMATION ABOUT EAST EUROPE AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE APPROACHING USG FOR CURRENT ASSESSMENTS IF AND WHEN ROK DELEGATES IN FACT RECEIVE VISAS.
SHOESMITH

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